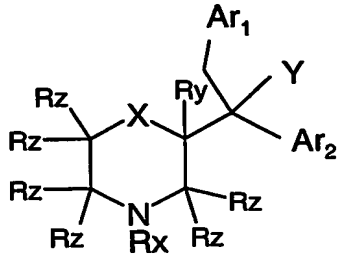
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

Rx is H;

Ry is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

each Rz is independently H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

X represents O;

Y represents OH or OR;

R is C_1-C_4 alkyl;

Ar_1 is a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring each of which may be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), halo, hydroxy, pyridyl, thiophenyl and phenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl); and

Ar_2 is a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring each of which may be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl) and halo;

wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

Ar_1 is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, oxadiazolyl or thiadiazolyl, each of which may be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, $O(C_1$-C_4 alkyl), $S(C_1$-C_4 alkyl), halo, hydroxy, pyridyl, thiophenyl and phenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or $O(C_1$-C_4 alkyl); and

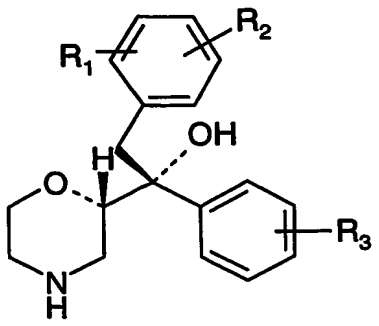
Ar_2 is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, imidazolyl or triazolyl each of which may be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, $O(C_1$-C_4 alkyl) and halo; wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein:

Ar_1 is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, $O(C_1$-C_4 alkyl), $S(C_1$-C_4 alkyl), halo and phenyl optionally substituted with halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or $O(C_1$-C_4 alkyl); and

Ar_2 is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, $O(C_1$-C_4 alkyl) and halo; wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms.

4. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, represented by the formula (II)



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from H, C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), halo and phenyl; and

R_3 is selected from H, C_1-C_4 alkyl and halo;

wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

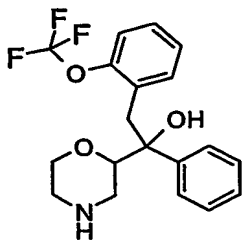
5. A compound as claimed in claim 4, wherein R_1 is selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), F and Ph wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms.

6. A compound as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5, wherein R_2 is H or F.

7. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein R_3 is H.

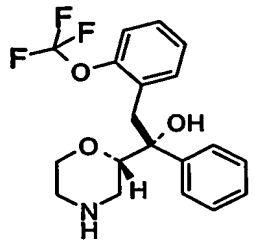
8. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein Ar1 includes a substituent attached at the 2-position.

9. A compound of the formula



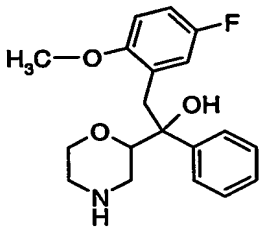
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A compound of the formula



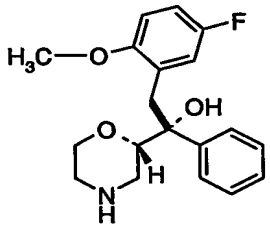
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-12, for use as a pharmaceutical.

14. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-12, for use as a selective inhibitor of the reuptake of norepinephrine.

15. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-12, for treating a disorder associated with norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals.

16. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-12, for the manufacture of a medicament for treating a disorder associated with norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals.

17. A method for selectively inhibiting the reuptake of norepinephrine in mammals, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. A method for treating disorders associated with norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. A method or use as claimed in any one of claims 15, 16 and 18, wherein the disorder is selected from nervous system conditions selected from the group consisting of an addictive disorder and withdrawal syndrome, an adjustment disorder (including depressed mood, anxiety, mixed anxiety and depressed mood, disturbance of conduct, and mixed disturbance of conduct and mood), an age-associated learning and mental disorder (including Alzheimer's disease), alcohol addiction, anorexia nervosa, apathy, an attention-deficit disorder (ADD) due to general medical conditions, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), bipolar disorder, bulimia nervosa, chronic fatigue syndrome, chronic or acute stress, cognitive disorders including mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia (CIAS), conduct disorder, cyclothymic disorder, dementia of the Alzheimers type (DAT), depression (including adolescent depression and minor depression), dysthymic disorder, emotional dysregulation, fibromyalgia and other somatoform disorders (including somatization disorder, conversion disorder, pain disorder, hypochondriasis, body dysmorphic disorder,

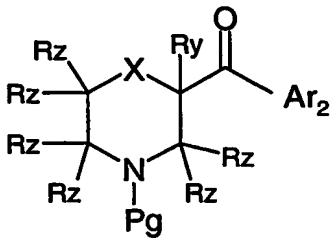
undifferentiated somatoform disorder, and somatoform NOS), generalized anxiety disorder, hypotensive states including orthostatic hypotension, incontinence (i.e., stress incontinence, genuine stress incontinence, and mixed incontinence), an inhalation disorder, an intoxication disorder, mania, migraine headaches, neuropathic pain, nicotine addiction, obesity (i.e., reducing the weight of obese or overweight patients), obsessive compulsive disorders and related spectrum disorders, oppositional defiant disorder, pain including chronic pain, neuropathic pain and antinociceptive pain, panic disorder, peripheral neuropathy, post-traumatic stress disorder, premenstrual dysphoric disorder (i.e., premenstrual syndrome and late luteal phase dysphoric disorder), psoriasis, psychoactive substance use disorders, a psychotic disorder (including schizophrenia, schizoaffective and schizophreniform disorders), seasonal affective disorder, a sleep disorder (such as narcolepsy and enuresis), social phobia (including social anxiety disorder), a specific developmental disorder, selective serotonin reuptake inhibition (SSRI) "poop out" syndrome (i.e., wherein a patient who fails to maintain a satisfactory response to SSRI therapy after an initial period of satisfactory response), TIC disorders (e.g., Tourette's Disease), tobacco addiction and vascular dementia.

20. A method or use as claimed in any one of claims 15, 16 and 18, wherein the disorder is attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, ADHD.

21. A method or use as claimed in any one of claims 15, 16 and 18 wherein the disorder is schizophrenia.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient or carrier.

23. A compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

wherein Pg represents an N-protecting group and all other variables are as defined for formula (I) in claim 1.

5